GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6017
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
BOGUS RATION CARDS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of bogus ration cards in majority of the State leading to a large scale diversion of PDS items in open markets;

(b) whether the Union government have conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to eleminate all the bogus ration cards and the action taken against the authority responsible for the issue of bogus ration cards?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a): PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the central and State Governments.Whereas the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and bulk allocation of PDS commodities, the responsibility of identification of the BPL families, issue of ration cards and distribution of food grains in a fair and accountable manner through the FPS rests with the State Governments. As per the population projections of 2000, there are 18.3 crore households in the country against which the States have reported issue of 19.5 crore ration cards. The excess ration cards in circulation also includes bogus ration cards.

(b),(c)&(d): Government of India commissioned M/s Tata Economic Consultative Services (TECS)to carry out a study to assess the extent of diversion of foodgrains, sugar and edible oil under PDS in the year 1997. The study estimated the diversion of wheat at 36%, rice at 31%, sugar at 23% and edible oils at 55% at the national level.

Existence of bogus ration cards and bogus units in the ration cards was also cited as one of the causes of diversion of food grains.

Under TPDS guidelines issued in February, 1997 States / UTs have been asked toinvolve Panchyati Raj Instituted (PRIs) in the identification of targeted families. States have been instructed to take every care while issuing ration cards against its possible misuse. Guidelines issued for greater involvement of PRIs in functioning of TPDS, issued in June, 1999 emphasize the role of Gram Panchyat / Gram Sabhas for checking of ration cards for theirgenuineness. Govt. of India has also requested States/ UTs to take effective steps for elimination of bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards through door to door surveys, periodical checking so that menace of diversion of subsidized food grains is effectively controlled.